(b) there is no such proposal under consideration of Government.

(c) Pak ISI has been reported to be assisting militants in Assam. Militant groups in Assam have also been reported to be using facilities and territories in some of the neighbouring countries.

Unanimity of Views on Pak Firing

844. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is very critical of Government's policy on the issue of shelling of Indian villages by the Pakistani Army;

(b) if so, what is perception Government viz-a-viz views held by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) whether there is complete unanimity of views or difference in perception still exists between Government and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) It is not correct to say that the Chief Minister of J&K has criticised the policy of the Government. Chief Minister is critical of the role of Pakistan Army for shelling of Indian villages.

(b) and (c) On the issue of border firings on the Indo-Pak border, there is no difference of perception between the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Central Government.

Nexus Between Politicians and Militants in Assam

845. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports alleging nexus between politicians and militants in Assam; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Certain reports have been received by Government of Assam and Central Government alleging nexus between politicians and militants in Assam.

(b) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the table of the House.

Reforms in Police System

846. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an urgent need for reforms in the police system; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to enable the law enforcing authorities to face the new challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Public perception is that there has been a general fall in the performance of the police as also a deterioration in the policing system as a whole in the country and that there is need to bring about certain reforms and structural changes in consonance with the developments which have taken place during the last 50 years or so in the administration of criminal justice in general and police functioning and practices in particular. The Home Minister has written to the State Chief Ministers in this regard. Reforms and restructuring of the police system in India was also the subject matter of meeting of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs held recently.

As 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subejcts as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, it is essentially for the State Governments to take such measures as are necessary to improve the police and policing in their respective jurisdiction. Within the constitutional limitations, however, the Central Government has been emphasising on the States to bring about such changes in the functioning of their police as are necessary to meet the expectations of the people. The stress by the Government of India has been not only to modify the existing recruitment and training practices in the States but also to modernise their intelligence, weaponry and

communication system to keep pace with time. Apart from advisories, the Central Government has been providing, since 1969, financial assistance to the State Government through its scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces as well as by releasing money on the basis of the recommendations of the Finance Commissions. The multi-crore project viz., Crime-Criminal Information System, providing for a computer in each of the districts in the country, has been also implemented by the Central Government. These computers will be linked to each other in due course.

Paramilitary Forces to Nab Veerappan

847. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Paramilitary Forces have been engaged to arrest/nab the sandalwood smuggler Veerappan and if so, the details of the number of personnel so deployed since last three years and the expenditure incurred on this specified project;

(b) whether Veerappan has kidnapped recently some State officials and the State Governments have requested the Central Government for assistance; and

(c) if so, the action taken on State Government's requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFARIS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) As per information available, the BSF was deployed in Karnataka for operations against Veerappan as indicated below:

05.06.93 to 16.03.94 — 5 coys

16.03.94 to 31.08.94 — 2 coys

31.08.94 to 15.04.95 — 1 coy

As per information furnished by the State Government of Karnataka, an expenditure of Rs. 12.37 crores was incurred by the state government, from 9.4.1990 to 28.2.1997, for the purpose of nabbing Veerappan.

(b) and (c) As per information available Veerappan had kidnapped 16 officials belonging to the Karnataka Forest Department recently. All of them have been set free. In the wake of the kidnapping of these individuals by Veerappan, the state govt. of Karnataka has requested the Central Government for assistance in the form of Central Para-Military Force to nab Veerappan. In a meeting subsequently held in the Home Ministry with senior officials of both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka it was decided that Tamil Nadu Police and Karnataka Police should have a joint command and upgrade intelligence collection before launching operation to nab Veerappan. Trained Commandoes of the Central Police Force will then be deputed, as and when necessary, to assist the joint command of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the operation.

Reservation of Seats for Muslims

848. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Hon'ble Defence Minister's statement which appeared in the Asian Age, dated 18th August, 1997 that there should be reservation of seats for Muslims:

(b) whether this represents Government's policy; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government would explain such gross violation of joint responsibility of the Cabinet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration for providing reservation of seats for Muslims.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to (b) above.

CBI Requests for Prosecution Pending with Government

849. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of CBI requests for prosecution pending with Government; and